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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 7. Elimination of apartheid

1. At its 29th meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Support was expressed for the programme in view of the importance of its objectives. Some delegations believed it did not take into account the positive developments in South Africa, particularly legal actions to abolish the system of apartheid.

3. Some delegations questioned the proposed reclassifications of two posts in view of the positive developments towards the elimination of apartheid and the possibility of a new constitution for South Africa, which would greatly reduce the involvement of the United Nations. Several delegations emphasized

the enormous obstacles which impede the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial, democratic system in South Africa. They emphasized that until there was an irreversible change, the United Nations had an important role to play.

4. One delegation queried the number of grants and the activities financed in relation to the elimination of apartheid, which were approved or engaged in by the Special Committee against Apartheid during 1990. Several delegations were of the view that the grants and activities of the Special Committee contributed greatly in mobilizing international support for the campaign against apartheid.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee agreed with the last sentence of paragraph 7.4 proposed by the Secretary-General that conditions in South Africa would require continuous monitoring and would call for a re-evaluation of existing policies and programmes of action, which might lead to appropriate adjustments necessary to implement an effective programme during the biennium.

6. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian SSR)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 8. International Court of Justice

1. At its 20th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. One delegation felt that, since there had been recent increases in the staffing of the Court, the request for a new post at the P-3 level should have been met through redeployment from other areas within the section.

3. Another delegation referred to the requirements for external printing and binding indicated in paragraph 8.19. The Committee was informed that such requirements were for publications in English and French and that the question of publishing the documents of the Court in the other official languages of the United Nations would be addressed in the report requested by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recalled that neither the activities of the Court nor those of the Registry were part of the medium-term plan. The Committee further recalled that regulation 15.1 of Article XV of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations provides that "the programme budget of the International Court of Justice shall be prepared by the Court, in consultation with the Secretary-General. These programme budget proposals shall be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, together with such observations as he may deem desirable."

5. The Committee took note of section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 9. Legal activities

1. At its 21st meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. General support was expressed for the activities of the Office of Legal Affairs, in particular the legal services provided in connection with peace-keeping activities, the servicing of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and efforts to catch up with the backlog in publications. Particular interest was expressed in training, which, it was felt, should be undertaken not only to promote the adoption of legal texts but to develop national legal capabilities.

3. Some delegations queried the justifications for the proposed reclassifications and sought additional information in terms of workloads.

4. Some delegations were of the view that efforts to rationalize the work of the Sixth Committee should lead to reduced requirements for substantive services. It further questioned the continuing validity of the legislative mandate for certain activities. It was generally recognized, however, that the agenda of the Sixth Committee and the working groups of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) were determined by Member States.

5. Several delegations were concerned about the feasibility and potential cost of the proposal to upgrade the United Nations Treaty Information System but would support cost-effective measures to improve access by Member States to treaty information. It was noted that technological innovations were being planned in cooperation with other offices concerned, in particular the Department of Conference Services.

6. Some delegations questioned the usefulness of late issuance of publications, especially those of interest to only a small user community, and raised the question of the possibility of charging user fees.

7. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts made by the Office of Legal Affairs to ensure the balanced presentation in the work of the Office of the different legal systems of the world.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 10. Law of the sea and ocean affairs

1. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed interest in the progress made in promoting the wider acceptance and uniform application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Support was expressed, in particular, for assistance to developing countries in maximizing benefits from the Convention.

3. A number of delegations questioned the premise, as stated in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.5 of the proposed programme budget, that the Convention would enter into force soon and consequently that the biennium 1992-1993 would be a transitional period.

4. General concern was expressed over the use of consultants. To some delegations it appeared that consultants were being used as a substitute for staff resources. To some delegations, which did not object to the use of consultants for specialized studies in areas where the Secretariat lacked specialized expertise, it was important that consultants should be selected on a wide geographical basis. To other delegations, the resources proposed were an indication that the recommendation concerning consultants made by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations was being forgotten.

5. Some delegations were of the view that the number of publications programmed was too large and that the resources were being spent on small, specialized audiences. Other delegations questioned the practical effect of the information gathering activities in subprogramme 2.

6. Different views were expressed on the proposed reclassification of a post at the Professional level.

7. Some delegations stated that operational activities should be funded exclusively from extrabudgetary resources.

Reservation

8. One delegation expressed a reservation on the inclusion of subprogramme 4 (Servicing of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) and its financing under the regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 11A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

1. At its 38th and 46th meetings, on 4 and 8 June 1991, the Committee considered section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. The Committee regretted that the format of section 11A did not follow that of other sections and expressed its concern that the programme narrative did not clearly define the activities the Office intended to undertake during 1992-1993 in order to accomplish the objectives of the medium-term plan.

3. While recognizing the importance of coordination functions, some delegations pointed out that the Office was also responsible for providing the impetus to, and direction of, the economic and social development activities of the United Nations. In this connection, some delegations drew particular attention to the fact that, while dramatic economic and political changes in

the East have affected East-West relations, the North-South situation continued to require urgent attention by the international community and by the Office of the Director-General.

4. The Committee expressed its concern that the programme narrative of the Office did not specify how it proposed to provide innovative responses to emerging trends or how it proposed to direct and guide the economic and social development activities throughout the system. The Committee regretted that the expected results of the activities in the proposed programme budget were not clear.

5. The Committee noted that programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, "Africa: Critical economic situation, recovery and development", was included in section 11A of the proposed programme budget essentially for presentation purposes and that the Department of Public Information and the Economic Commission for Africa had full responsibility for those functions falling within their respective mandates.

6. Some delegations pointed out that the final review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development had not yet taken place and would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

7. Some delegations expressed their concern that the Office of the Director-General and the Department of Public Information were to be allocated more resources than the Economic Commission for Africa. Many delegations were of the view that the proposals for action were inadequate and noted that revisions would be made to reflect their concerns.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended that a separate and identifiable unit should be established within the Office of the Director-General to undertake those activities that fell within its responsibility, as proposed under programme 45 of its proposed programme budget.

9. Taking into account the reservations and views expressed, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 11A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

1. At its 38th and 46th meetings, on 4 and 8 June 1991, the Committee considered section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. The Committee regretted that the format of section 11A did not follow that of other sections and expressed its concern that the programme narrative did not clearly define the activities the Office intended to undertake during the biennium 1992-1993 in order to accomplish the objectives of the medium-term plan.

3. While recognizing the importance of coordination functions, some delegations pointed out that the Office was also responsible for providing the impetus to and direction of the economic and social development activities of the United Nations. In this connection, some delegations drew particular attention to the fact that while dramatic economic and political changes in

the East had affected East-West relations, the North-South situation continued to require urgent attention by the international community and by the Office of the Director-General.

4. The Committee expressed its concern that the programme narrative of the Office did not specify how the Office proposed to provide innovative responses to emerging trends or how it proposed to direct and guide the economic and social development activities throughout the system. The Committee regretted that the expected results of the activities in the proposed programme budget were not clear.

5. The Committee noted that programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development), was included in section 11A of the proposed programme budget essentially for presentation purposes and that the Department of Public Information and the Economic Commission for Africa had full responsibility for those functions falling within their respective mandates.

6. Some delegations pointed out that the final review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 had not yet taken place and would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

7. Some delegations expressed their concern that the Office of the Director-General and the Department of Public Information were to be allocated more resources than the Economic Commission for Africa. Many delegations were of the view that the proposals for action were inadequate and noted that revisions would be made to reflect their concerns.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended that a separate and identifiable unit be established within the Office of the Director-General to undertake those activities that fell within its responsibility as proposed under programme 45 of the medium-term plan.

9. The Committee recommended that adequate resources be provided for the economic recovery and development of Africa, commensurate with the high priority accorded to it by the General Assembly.

10. The Committee also recommended that the various activities provided for under programme 45 of the medium-term plan be implemented on the basis of an innovative approach, in a balanced and coordinated manner, taking into account the responsibility of both the international community and the African countries as mentioned in the pertinent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the critical economic situation and development of Africa.

11. The Committee further recommended that these activities might possibly be amended when the medium-term plan was revised in the light of decisions which the General Assembly might take at its forty-sixth session after final evaluation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

12. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the above recommendations and to decisions of the Economic and Social Council and on the understanding that the regular budget resources requested for this section by the Secretary-General would be adequate, with the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1. Mobilization of resources

13. During the biennium 1992-1993, the subprogramme will aim at:

(a) Promoting the translation of the commitment of the international community into concrete action, including increased financial flows to assist Africa;

(b) Ensuring adequate resources for the implementation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development and monitoring its follow-up through intersecretariat as well as intergovernmental mechanisms;

(c) Promoting specific action to help African countries regarding conditionalities associated with resource flows to Africa and to support economic reforms in the region;

(d) Promoting international efforts towards the improvement of commodity issues, including markets, taking into account long-term trends;

(e) Mobilizing resources for diversification of the African economy;

(f) Strengthening of the efforts of the African Governments to improve their own economic policy.

Activities

International cooperation

14. To carry out, in close cooperation with the organizations of the system concerned, a study on the overall resource flows to Africa so as to facilitate efforts to mobilize additional resources for African economic recovery and development.

15. To organize two annual meetings with representatives of donor countries in New York and to carry out three missions to donor countries, including meetings with development assistance agencies with a view to securing increased official development assistance for African countries.

16. To consult UNDP and the World Bank annually, with a view to promoting and enhancing round tables and consultative group meetings in order to make them more effective in mobilizing resources for African countries.

17. To coordinate the support provided by the United Nations to African countries, at their request, in the preparation for round tables and consultative group meetings.

18. To provide inputs to meetings of relevant international financial institutions and other relevant meetings and, where appropriate, participate in such meetings with a view to promoting greater financial flows, including solutions to the debt problems of African countries.

19. To mobilize resources for activities envisaged in subprogramme 3 (The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa).

20. To cooperate with relevant non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations involved in efforts to address African economic recovery and development, particularly the Global Coalition for Africa and the Africa Leadership Forum.

Meetings

21. To organize, in close cooperation with the international organizations and corporations concerned, two subregional meetings to promote foreign direct investment in Africa.

Inter-agency cooperation

22. To ensure adequate resources for the implementation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, and monitor its follow-up through intersecretariat as well as intergovernmental mechanisms.

23. In close cooperation with the organizations concerned, to promote the implementation of recommendations relating to African commodity problems, in particular the diversification of African economies.

24. In close cooperation with the organizations concerned, to work for the full implementation of the provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, in particular provisions relating to resource flows to these countries.

Subprogramme 2. Monitoring, assessment and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects

25. During the biennium, this subprogramme will aim at:

(a) Analysing financial flows, multilateral or bilateral, available or required for African economic recovery and development and their relationships to domestic economic policies;

(b) Studying the problems encountered in the implementation of specific activities designed to address the economic and social emergency situation in Africa.

Activities

Inter-agency cooperation

26. To arrange and provide substantive and technical support to meetings of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force which will convene approximately eight sessions during the biennium to ensure the coherent implementation by the organizations of the system of decisions of the General Assembly and other relevant intergovernmental bodies relating to African economic recovery and development.

Meetings

27. To arrange two inter-agency meetings on how the United Nations system can contribute to African efforts towards the economic integration of Africa.

28. In close cooperation with the organizations concerned, to convene an expert group meeting to assist African countries in setting up mechanisms for the implementation of the African Charter for Popular Participation and Transformation.

Parliamentary services

29. To coordinate and ensure that the organizations of the system provide inputs to the reports on activities of the system relating to assistance in the economic recovery and development of Africa.

30. To report annually to the General Assembly on progress made in the monitoring, assessment and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes for African economic recovery and development.

Subprogramme 3. The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

31. During the biennium 1992-1993, the subprogramme will aim at:

(a) Raising international awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa;

(b) Providing information on the efforts and reforms - both political and economic - being undertaken by African countries to revive or enhance economic and social growth, as well as on the vital role of external resources and actions in support of African recovery;

(c) Providing information support for the activities listed under subprogrammes 1 and 2 above.

Activities

(a) Publications

(i) African Recovery periodical

32. African Recovery shall be published on a quarterly basis in English and French (24,000 copies of each issue in English and 8,000 in French). It is intended primarily for the media, the non-governmental community and other opinion makers in academic and research institutions, government officials and the like in Africa and internationally. The periodical will report on important new developments, ideas, studies and conferences relating to African recovery; produce carefully researched articles on resource flows (including debt), commodities and trade; produce reports on selected African countries, and discuss the policies and programmes they are pursuing to revive economic growth; and highlight the role played by donor countries and the United Nations system in support of Africa, the impediments to recovery and so forth.

(ii) Briefing papers

33. Eight briefing papers shall be produced on specific themes of special concern to Africa targeted at the specialized media and opinion makers in academic and research institutions and government offices (8,000 copies each). Briefing papers on African debt, African least developed countries and African population policies have already been produced. For the biennium 1992-1993, briefing papers will be prepared on regional cooperation and integration; resource flows and debt; trade, commodities and diversification; mobilizing foreign direct investment; and the challenge of food security and self-sufficiency, among other subjects.

(iii) Press kits

34. Press kits will be produced to enhance world-wide press coverage on important United Nations reports on Africa. Two will be produced during the biennium 1992-1993.

(b) Mass media promotion

(iv) Television and radio programmes

35. To work closely with the Department of Public Information to produce radio and television programmes. Major features will be produced in 1992-1993 for both radio and television, highlighting the decisions and goals of the final review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, as well as steps taken by African Governments and the international community.

(v) Journalists travelling seminars

36. To organize two seminars to enable senior donor-country and African journalists to see first hand the efforts being made by African countries to initiate or accelerate growth, the domestic and external constraints to growth and the efforts of the international community.

(vi) Coverage of African conferences

37. To provide briefs for international journalists with a view to encouraging their attendance at conferences and meetings relating to African economic recovery and development.

(vii) Articles for major media

38. To write and submit at least six articles for major international newspapers highlighting the concerns of African countries, the steps taken by them to promote their economic development and the efforts of the international community.

(c) Liaison

(viii) Media and other groups

39. To organize and maintain regular contacts and liaison with media and other important target groups, such as parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and academic institutions in order to enlist support for actions being undertaken or that need to be undertaken. In this context, to ensure that African economic recovery and development is a topic for the meetings of the non-governmental organizations envisaged by the Department of Public Information in subprogramme 2 (Information services) of programme 38 (Public information) of the medium-term plan.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 11B. World Food Council

1. At its 30th meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations noted that the activities proposed within the single subprogramme, Coordination of policies and action to combat world hunger, were similar to those included in previous programme budgets. It was pointed out that the central objective established by the 1974 World Food Conference, the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, had not been attained. Doubts were expressed as to the capacity of the World Food Council (WFC) and its secretariat to contribute effectively to the achievement of such objective. Other delegations stressed that the subprogramme deserved full support.

3. Several delegations questioned the requested requirements for consultants and contractual services, as well as office supplies and computer equipment. Some other delegations expressed their surprise at the high rental cost for the office space of WFC.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended that WFC should review its activities, so that they would be more closely geared to the achievement of the objective of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

5. The Committee also recommended that the low priority designations should be deleted from the work of the ad hoc expert groups under 2(b) and that low priority be assigned to all information activities under 3(a) and (b).

6. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 11C. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

1. At its 31st meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered section 11C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations stressed the importance and high priority they attached to the preparation of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In this regard, they expressed their support for the activities of the Conference secretariat.

3. Several delegations expressed concern that the summary reference made to General Assembly resolution 44/228 did not reflect all the issues covered by the resolution and included issues which were not in that resolution.

4. Some delegations expressed concern that the provision made for the Voluntary Fund for Supporting Developing Countries Participating in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its preparatory process did not seem sufficient.

5. Some delegations questioned the need for the provision of 11 staff members to remain for the full 12 months in 1992. Others found the proposals well justified to ensure the effective initial stage of the follow-up to the Conference. Some delegations noted that the provision was based upon an assumption and subject to change in accordance with any possible decision by the Conference or the General Assembly.

6. Some delegations questioned the timeliness of the consultancy work in 1992-1993 contained in paragraph 11C.7, since the final session of the Preparatory Committee would be held in early 1992. Others stressed the time constraints and workload of the Conference secretariat and the need for consultancy support in this regard.

7. Some delegations were of the view that the provisions made for consultants and travel of staff were too high and requested clarification on how the provisions would be spent. Additional information has been provided by the secretariat on this subject.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended that paragraph 11C.2 should be changed to include a reference to General Assembly resolution 44/228 and that the remaining part of the paragraph should be deleted.

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

10. The Committee recommended that appropriate revisions should be made to the medium-term plan and proposals for the 1992-1993 budget, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and should be considered during the thirty-second resumed session of CPC.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 11D. Regional Commissions New York Office

1. At its 31st meeting, on 1 June 1991, the Committee considered section 11D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations questioned the separate presentation of section 11D and felt that, given its size, it could be incorporated within another section of the programme budget.

3. Some delegations felt that the activities under section 11D could be included under the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, section 11A.

4. One delegation questioned the level and number of staff in this Office.

Conclusion and recommendation

5. The Committee took note of section 11D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 11E. Overall policy-making organs (Economic and social activities)

1. At its 31st meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered section 11E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

2. The Committee noted the redistribution of resources to the various other sections of the proposed programme budget resulting from the abolition of this section.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 12. Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

1. At its 31st and 32nd meetings, on 1 June 1991, the Committee considered section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Some delegations noted the difficulty encountered in identifying outputs in this section, while others recognized that the activities proposed were, by their nature, difficult to programme. Some delegations expressed concern that technical cooperation activities were being spread too thin.

3. Some delegations were of the opinion that activities related to technical cooperation should be financed by extrabudgetary resources. Other delegations felt that the level of regular budget financing for these activities should be increased in order to ensure that they were placed on a sound and assured footing. Some other delegations referred to the fact that collection of assessed contributions was less encouraging than collection of pledged voluntary contributions.

4. One delegation noted with concern that the activities of the Environment programme were not treated separately under Sectoral Advisory Services. The same delegation also expressed regrets over the fact that no resource growth was proposed for these activities which were aimed at assisting developing countries.

5. Some delegations stressed that the technical cooperation for developing countries aspect in the subprogramme on sectoral advisory services should be emphasized.

6. Some delegations queried the interfacing of these activities with the United Nations Development Programme and sought assurance that there would be no overlapping and duplication of efforts in this regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that activities related to the Environment programme should be included separately under Sectoral Advisory Services.

8. The Committee took note of section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 13. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

Discussion

1. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings on 1 and 3 June, the Committee considered section 13 of the proposed programme budget of the biennium 1992-1993.

2. Some delegations stressed the importance of the work carried out by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and noted that it provided a global perspective and an integrated approach to economic and social development issues. They also noted that the Department provided important services to various intergovernmental bodies and reaffirmed the need for concise and analytical reports.

3. Some delegations emphasized that the Committee should be informed of any programmatic changes that might result from the ongoing process of reform of

the economic and social sectors. Such reforms might have implications for the work of the Department. An example was the General Assembly's decision at its resumed forty-fifth session that the Economic and Social Council would hold its sessions in alternate years in New York and Geneva, a decision which might affect the resources for travel of the Department.

4. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the proposed redeployment of resources from executive direction and management and from programme support to the substantive programmes.

5. With regard to the programme on global development issues and policies, a number of delegations pointed out that studies on the political changes in East-West relations should include economic aspects and should also address the overall implications of those changes for developing countries and the world economy.

6. Some delegations mentioned the need for collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa on the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery.

7. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the energy and natural resources programme and suggested that it should receive a greater share of the requested resources.

8. Some delegations took note of the fact that the non-recurrent resources proposed for the population programme were for the preparations of an international meeting on population to be convened in 1994 and that the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, which met earlier in 1991, would be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session. The Committee was informed that two trust funds had been established for the convening of the international meeting, one for general contributions and one specifically for the participation of least developed countries, and that more specific information would be made available to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Some delegations noted that the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities had been appointed Secretary-General of the proposed meeting and that the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had been appointed Deputy Secretary-General.

9. Some delegations noted that the large proportion of extrabudgetary resources for activities in the statistics programme was due to the operational activities carried out on behalf of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. A number of delegations emphasized the need for strengthening DIESA activities in the field of environmental statistics.

10. A number of delegations stressed the importance of designating priorities, ensuring, at the same time, that the priority designation of activities funded by extrabudgetary resources reflected the priorities accorded by the General Assembly in the medium-term plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee expressed support for the work of the Department carried out under section 13 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 and recommended the following specific revisions to the programme narrative:

(a) Paragraph 13.13: in the sixth line, insert the words "economic and" before the word "political";

(b) Paragraph 13.13: in the seventh line, after the words "East-West relations" insert the words "as well as their impact on the growth of the world economy, in particular, on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international cooperation".

(c) Paragraph 13.14: in the first line, insert after the words "resources to" the words "and from".

12. The Committee also recommended that the low priority designation should be deleted from the list of parliamentary documentation under subprogramme 3 of the energy and natural resources programme, and from the list of published material under subprogramme 3 of the population programme.

13. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 14. Department of Technical Cooperation for Development

1. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 3 June, the Committee considered section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Some delegations expressed concern that the rate of real growth of 0.1 per cent did not properly reflect the importance of technical cooperation activities for developing countries and felt that the regular budget resources for this section should be increased. Other delegations noted that the Department provided only a small share of the considerable resources allocated to technical cooperation activities for developing countries by organizations and programmes of the United Nations system.

3. Several delegations noted with concern the reduction in the level of extrabudgetary resources for 1992-1993. In the same context, some delegations queried the implications resulting from changes in the system of support costs reimbursement for the activities of the Department should decision 90/26 be

implemented by the United Nations Development Programme Governing Council and adopted by the General Assembly.

4. Several delegations felt that, under the Energy programme, subprogramme 4, Energy resources assessment and exploration, and subprogramme 6, Development and transfer of technology for exploiting critical energy resources, should be accorded high priority.

5. Some delegations stressed the importance of coordination of activities among the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies of the United Nations system.

6. Some delegations felt that the programme narrative of subprogramme 2, Water resources development and management, under the Natural resources programme, should include the question of the environmental impact of water resources development.

Conclusion and recommendation

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 6 and 7 June, the Committee considered section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed concern with the abolition of two posts and a negative 0.5 per cent rate of growth which could have an adverse effect on programme implementation, especially on the subprogramme on transfer of technology. Some delegations felt that the growth rate should have been 0.9 per cent. Several delegations expressed concern that recommendations of the Working Party of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the medium-term plan and the programme budget were not taken into account during the preparation of the section.

3. Other delegations welcomed the overall decrease in resources and reduction of posts.

4. Some delegations were concerned with the apparent duplication of activities by UNCTAD and other United Nations entities, and expressed the view that, in the context of restructuring in the economic and social fields, a review of overlapping and complementary activities in the Secretariat should be undertaken.

5. Some delegations supported the proportionate distribution of resources between administration and management and the programme of work. Other delegations were concerned that redeployment of a D-1 post to executive direction and management from the commodities subprogramme would be to the detriment of substantive activities.

6. Several delegations agreed with the suppression of subprogramme 5, Trade among countries having different economic and social systems, and supported the proposed reorientation of activities relating to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Some delegations questioned the reference to a United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology in the absence of any General Assembly mandate for such a conference. At the same time a number of delegations stressed the need for further readjustment of UNCTAD's programme of activities in order to ensure effective consideration of the issues of East-South trade cooperation, as well as integration of countries with economies in transition in international trade.

7. Several delegations expressed concern with the negative real growth of resources allocated to the transfer of technology.

Reservation

8. One delegation expressed its reservation concerning the activities under subprogramme 15.2, Assistance to the Palestinian people.

Conclusion and recommendation

9. The Committee recalled that the decision regarding the proposed reduction of posts under section 15 fell within the competence of the General Assembly.

10. The Committee took note of the programme narrative of section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and recommended its approval by the General Assembly.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 16. International Trade Centre

1. At its 43rd meeting on 7 June, the Committee considered section 16 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations endorsed the goals and programme of work of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and noted that the rate of real growth of 1 per cent was acceptable. Some delegations felt that the format should be improved to provide for greater transparency. Information requested by a number of delegations on the level of non-recurrent sources was provided.

3. It was noted that the ITC's projected income from parking for the biennium 1992-1993 exceeded the anticipated level of income from the sale of its publications.

Conclusion and recommendation

4. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 17. United Nations Environment Programme

1. At its 35th and 39th meetings on 3 and 5 June, the Committee considered section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Some delegations noted that although the environment was one of the five areas referred to in General Assembly resolution 45/255, the proposed growth rate was modest. Several delegations noted the significant growth anticipated under extrabudgetary resources and, while welcoming such increases, expressed concern about the proliferation of trust funds.

3. Some delegations felt that it would be more appropriate to include the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that were related to the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance under subprogramme 9, "Environmental assessment" and not under subprogramme 6, "Human Settlements and the environment" as proposed in the budget.

4. Some delegations questioned the fact that the programme narrative in part C did not allow for the provision of conference and interpretation services to the Permanent Representative Committee of UNEP whose official status has been required by the UNEP Executive Body in 1987. They recommended that it be included. Others expressed concern that such a decision might have substantial and unnecessary financial implications.

5. One delegation expressed concern that the activities under subprogramme 2 were too broad and general in nature. Some delegations raised concerns regarding the increase of travel expenditures for UNEP staff; these delegations also expressed concern about the relatively low percentage of total regular budget resources for the programme of work in comparison with expenditures on executive direction and management.

6. The proportion of high level posts was noted and further efforts to streamline these high level posts was suggested.

Reservation

7. One delegation expressed a reservation concerning the activities under part C, as long as it did not include conference and interpretation services for the Permanent Representatives Committee of UNEP.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee stressed the importance of international environmental cooperation and of UNEP activities in this area.

9. The Committee took note of the information provided by the UNEP representative that at its sixteenth session the Governing Council had decided that work on the establishment of a world environment academy should be suspended.

10. The Committee requested the Secretariat to revise the programme narrative of section 17 because the UNEP Governing Council had decided that the special session should be for three days instead of five, as it was proposed in the budget, and to provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

11. The Committee reconfirmed all the recommendations contained in paragraphs 185 to 192 of the report of its thirtieth session.

12. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, on the understanding that all non-mandated activities would be excluded from the programme narrative.